

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 INRE-00 H-01 SS-15 PA-01 ICAC-00 SSO-00
/060 W

-----011401 092215Z /66

O R 092103Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6057
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USUN NEW YORK 768

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4469

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PINT, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE MOTHERS' GROUPS

REF: (A) STATE 145584, (B) USUN 02328 NOTAL

1. EMBASSY HAS LITTLE MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE THREE WOMEN THAN THAT REPORTED IN REFTEL A. FERNANDO VACA NARVAJA IS NOTORIOUS HERE AS A TOP MONTONERO MILITANT, RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMB ATTACKS ON POLICE, POLITICIANS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES, BANKS AND CLUBS, MURDER, JAIL BREAKS, THEFT, AND OTHER CRIMES. IT WOULD BE POORLY VIEWED BY MUCH OF THE ARGENTINE POPULATION AND PROBABLY MISUNDERSTOOD HERE TO RECEIVE AT A HIGH LEVEL A GROUP INCLUDING THE MOTHER OF A PERSON LARGELY SEEN AS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSIDERABLE SUFFERING AND CRIMINAL ACTS IN ARGENTINA. THE CARE OF WOLA AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TO AVOID SPONSORING THE GROUP IS INDICATIVE OF SOME HESITATION TO BE CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH COSOFAM.

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2. EMBASSY IS AND HAS BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE MOTHERS' GROUP FROM THE PLAZA DE MAYO FOR SOME TIME (REFTEL B). REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GROUP HAVE MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR, SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE, UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES TODMAN AND DERIAN AND VISITING CODELS AND ARE REGULARLY INTRODUCED TO OTHER INTERESTED

VISITORS FROM THE US AND ABROAD. WE REGULARLY FOLLOW THE MOTHERS' THURSDAY GATHERINGS. YESTERDAY (JUNE 8) WELL OVER 100 PEOPLE, INCLUDING WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN, GATHERED AT THE PLAZA DE MAYO BEFORE A LARGE CONTINGENT OF PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS AND JOURNALISTS FROM ABROAD HERE TO COVER THE WORLD CUP. (RECENTLY, THE MOTHERS HAVE NUMBERED AROUND 150 AT THE THURSDAY VIGIL.) AFTER SPEAKING WITH THE FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, THE GROUP MARCHED BY TWOS DOWN THE MAIN SHOPPING MALL ON FLORIDA STREET UNTIL ONE OF THE LEADERS REPORTEDLY HAD AN ALTERCATION WITH A POLICEWOMAN AND SOME MEN DRESSED IN PLAIN CLOTHES. A POLICEMAN IN UNIFORM APPEARED AND ORDERED THE WOMAN TO BE LEFT ALONE AND THE CROWD DISPERSED, REPORTEDLY WITHOUT ARRESTS OR FURTHER INCIDENTS, ACCORDING TO THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD.

3. COMMENT: THE MOTHERS HAVE TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE NUMBERS HAVE RECENTLY SWELLED BECAUSE THEY ARE SURE THE POLICE WILL NOT TAKE ACTION AGAINST THEM DURING THE WORLD CUP MATCHES.

CASTRO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WOMEN, HUMAN RIGHTS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, MISSING PERSONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUENOS04469
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780242-0471
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780678/aaaacoye.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eaeac58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 145584, 78 USUN NEW YORK 2328
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2422914
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARGENTINE MOTHERS' GROUPS
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PINT, AR, COSOFAM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eaeac58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014